00706

1962/09/24

13

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

~~SECRET~~

43
Action
FE
Info
SS
SR
G
SP
L
H
SB
EUR
NEA
IO
AIDA
P
IOP
INR
RMR

Control: 18145
Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 24, 1962
1:22 AM

032

FILE

FROM: VIENTIANE

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 480, SEPTEMBER 24, 11 AM.

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 480; INFORMATION BANGKOK 289, SAIGON 119, CINCPAC 218, PARIS 199, LONDON 182, MOSCOW 37, NEW DELHI 61, PHNOM-PENH UNNUMBERED.

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT POUCH OTTAWA

YESTERDAY MORNING I FILLED SOUVANNA IN ON MAAG DEPARTURES LAST WEEK AND COMING UP THE FIRST OF THIS WEEK, WHICH WILL TOTAL 335. I THEN REFERRED TO VIET MINH AND ASKED WHETHER I MIGHT GIVE HIM RUNDOWN OF OUR ASSESSMENT THEIR PRESENCE AT THIS TIME. I STARTED MY REVIEW WITH NORTHWEST LAOS AND AFTER SOUVANNA AGREED WITH MY FIRST TWO OR THREE STATEMENTS HE THEN BROKE IN TO SAY THEY HAD CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION TOO AND LEFT ROOM BRIEFLY TO RETURN WITH MAP TO SHOW ME WHERE HE UNDERSTOOD VIET MINH PRESENT. BRIEFLY HE IDENTIFIED SAM NEUA AS PROBLEM AREA WHERE VIET MINH PRESENT IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS AND ALSO KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE, WHERE HE NAMED SEVERAL SPECIFIC LOCALITIES; AND TCHEPONE AREA. HE DID NOT DISAGREE THAT VIET MINH ALSO PRESENT XIENG KHOUANG BUT TENDED ATTRIBUTE THIS PRESENCE AT LEAST IN PART TO MOVEMENT OUT. EVIDENT HE IS AS AWARE AS WE OF WHAT HE FACES.

SOUVANNA SAID PROBLEM VIET MINH PRESENCE FALLS IN TWO CATEGORIES: 1) MILITARY, LARGE NUMBERS OF WHOM NOW SEEKING TO TAKE LAO NAMES AND BECOME ASSIMILATED WITH PATHET LAO. 2) CIVILIANS WHO /HAVE

~~SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

HAVE BEEN ARRIVING EVER SINCE 1958, FOR WORK ON ROADS, ETC., OFTEN WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND WHO ARE ACTIVE PROPAGANDISTS. HE PLANNED TAKE CENSUS ONCE GOVT RE-ESTABLISHED PL AREAS AND EXPEL CIVILIANS WHO HAVE ARRIVED FROM VIET NAM IN RECENT YEARS.

SOUVANNA PUT ALL HIS EMPHASIS ON PERIOD FOLLOWING OCT 7 WHEN HE SAID HE MEANT TO FOLLOW UP VIGOROUSLY ANY INDICATIONS VIET MINH PRESENCE, AGREEING WITH ME THAT ICC SHOULD BE USED TO MAXIMUM. HE SEEMED QUITE CONFIDENT THAT IN TIME, EVEN IF SEVERAL MONTHS, VIET MINH WOULD BE ROUTED OUT SINCE THEY CAN NOT INDEFINITELY BE CONCEALED FROM LAO. I ENCOURAGED HIM IN HIS PLANS FOR PERIOD FOLLOWING OCT 7 BUT SAID SO MUCH BETTER IF PRESSURE COULD BE GENERATED NOW WHICH WOULD ASSURE THAT MOST OR ALL ARE GONE BEFORE THAT DATE. I SAID I HAD RECOMMENDED TO WASHINGTON THAT RUSSIANS BE TOLD WE QUITE AWARE VIET MINH PRESENCE AND SAW LITTLE INDICATION PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE, AND WE HOPE RUSSIANS WILL TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO MAKE SURE GENEVA ACCORDS ARE IMPLEMENTED AND VIET MINH NOT PERMITTED VIOLATE PROVISIONS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL FOREIGN MILITARY. SOUVANNA AT FIRST TENDED TO CONCENTRATE ON ACTION AFTER OCT 7 BUT THEN GOT MY POINT AND VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF IT IMPORTANT RUSSIANS KNOW NOW WE ARE NOT BEING FOOLED AND FEEL PRESSURE ON THEM TO ASSURE VIET MINH COMPLIANCE. I URGED HIM TO RAISE MATTER WITH RUSSIANS, ALSO, ALTHOUGH WE ARE SOMEWHAT HAMPERED HERE BY FAILURE NEW AMBASSADOR TO ARRIVE.

UNGER

BA

POUCHED BY DC/T